

My name is Ruth Cook. I am 99 1/2 years old and I am dictating this testimony on March 3, 2022 to my daughter Carol Rizzolo. Because of my age and disability, I am able to vote by absentee ballot in every election. I have been active in elections and voting for over 80 years. I am upset to learn that not every eligible voter in Connecticut can access an absentee ballot. That makes no sense to me. I have aides who come to help me each day. I have come to know them and care for them.

If they or my daughter get sick there are at least 2 problems. First, I have no one who will help me take care of my basic needs. Perhaps more top of mind for me is that these are people who I would call essential workers. I have come to care for each of them. My neighbors and I at Evergreen Woods rely on these people to keep us safe.

These workers rely on their jobs to support their families. I don't think it's fair that they have to take time away from their families and their jobs to have their voice heard.

I can imagine that some of you are reading this and thinking that I am an addled old lady who doesn't understand the problems with this. But let me tell you that I read the NY Times daily and watch the news every day as well. I keep up with the arguments for and against ballot access and I think that since there was no fraud in our elections worrying about fraud is nonsense.

It's time that Connecticut make absentee ballots available to all eligible CT voters, especially during a pandemic.

Thank you, Ruth Cook
88 Notch Hill Rd,
North Branford, CT
203-208-4888

(As dictated to my daughter Carol Rizzolo)